

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HENRY AND ARLENE LANGREHR

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible veteran from my district for his service to our country and eastern Iowa.

Henry Langrehr of Clinton served in Europe during World War II with the 82nd Airborne Division. Because of his heroic and brave actions in France, he received two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the French Legion of Honor.

Henry was a paratrooper who flew on a C-47 transport plane across the English Channel before being dropped into Normandy on D-day during the Allied invasion.

During the campaign, Henry was injured by shrapnel and taken as a German prisoner of war. He successfully escaped a Nazi work camp and made his way back to his countrymen.

Henry always makes sure to praise Arlene, his wife of nearly 80 years. While Henry was in Europe, Arlene worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, making machine gun stands needed for the war effort, a real-life Rosie the Riveter.

I am incredibly grateful to have amazing Americans like Henry and Arlene living in my district.

Thank you for your incredible service to and love for the United States, Iowa, and Clinton.

CONGRATULATING THE GEORGIA BULLDOGS

(Mr. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate this year's college football national championship team, the Georgia Bulldogs.

For the first time since 1980, the Bulldogs are bringing the college football national championship trophy back to Athens, Georgia, after beating the Alabama Crimson Tide by a score of 33-18 this past Monday.

I could not be more proud of the Dawgs for showing all of us the true definition of heart, of character, and of dedication.

After losing to the Crimson Tide in the SEC championship game a few weeks back, the Bulldogs worked, they prepared, they practiced with intense focus in order to come back and win the national championship.

This team really gave us everything they had. They put it all on the field, and I am humbled to represent the University of Georgia and the 10th Congressional District of Georgia.

The Dawg spirit never ceases to amaze me. I want to extend sincere congratulations to the entire team, to Coach Kirby Smart and his coaching staff, and to the entire Dawg Nation.

Go Dawgs. Congratulations. It has been a great season.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. ANTHONY ORTEGON

(Mrs. BOEBERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of Dr. Anthony Ortegon of Pueblo, Colorado.

Dr. Ortegon and his amazing, strong, powerful wife, Vera, realized their American Dream early on. He will be remembered by those he loved as a God-fearing, country-loving, family man who was defined by his strong work ethic and love for helping others.

Dr. Ortegon was born in Bogota, Colombia, and made a courageous move to America, determined to create a better life for himself and his family. He finished college in 2½ years and attended the University of Miami's medical school to begin his passion for medicine and his patients, whom he loved. His work ethic was guided by his faith in God, and he trusted that he could build a life for himself in America.

He served the community of Pueblo for over 40 years, providing care to thousands of southern Coloradans through his medical practice, and he owned several small businesses. His spirit will live on through his strong wife, Vera; his sons, Anthony and Arthur; his four grandchildren; and through his impact on the community as a constant reminder of the potential of the American Dream.

DONALD HUISENGA RECEIVES HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AT AGE 98

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with an incredible and inspirational story to congratulate San Angelo's Donald Huisenga on receiving his high school diploma after nearly 80 years of waiting.

Although originally in the class of 1943, he was drafted into World War II just 3 months before graduation was scheduled.

His service with the U.S. Army Special Forces took Mr. Huisenga behind enemy lines and to the front of the D-day charge.

Recently, after Ms. Tess Gooding of San Angelo's VA clinic met with Mr. Huisenga and heard him mention always wanting to receive his diploma and graduate from high school, she got the ball rolling, and she went above and beyond the call of duty. And so did Mr. Huisenga's original high school district, East Sac County.

Last Wednesday, alongside friends and family, Mr. Huisenga was awarded his high school diploma at the ripe age of 98 years old.

It is touching to hear this story of service. I want to honor not only Mrs. Gooding for her work in the community, for her compassion, and for going above and beyond, but I would also like to honor Mr. Huisenga for his sacrifice to our country in World War II and for his continued desire to learn, teaching us an important lesson that it is never too late in life to learn.

I thank everyone who helped Mr. Huisenga earn his diploma. They have all made us very proud. Congratulations on this incredible achievement.

CPI'S ASTONISHING INCREASE

(Mr. MOORE of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today the latest Consumer Price Index numbers were revealed, confirming what Americans buying gas, groceries, and other necessities already know. Over the past year, the CPI increased an astonishing 7 percent.

That is the highest inflation rate we have seen in four decades. The last time we saw inflation like this, the University of Georgia football program had already begun its historic 40-plus-year championship drought that ended this week.

This catastrophe could have been avoided, could have been headed off. But last July, despite economists insisting it was a fantasy, the Biden administration brushed off inflation concerns as just a transitory inconvenience.

Of course, Biden—or at least his string-pullers—knew better, but he did not want the daunting economic realities facing American families to get in the way of this massive socialist tax-and-spend agenda.

You don't need an economics degree to know that trillions more in government spending will drive up inflation. Unfortunately, that is exactly what we are seeing.

If the Biden administration and the House Democrats get their way and pass this harmful Build Back Better scheme with trillions more in spending, inflation will soar like never before.

Americans are suffering. We must defeat the Democratic agenda, restore fiscal sanity, and take meaningful steps to combat the record inflation crushing American families and businesses.

FBI SHOULD NOT INTIMIDATE PARENTS

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, yesterday news reports suggested that President Biden's Secretary of Education was involved in requesting a letter from the National School Boards Association, calling for the FBI to intimidate parents who have shown up to school board meetings.

The House Education and Labor Committee must hold immediate hearings with the Secretary so that we can ask him under oath if he solicited this memo.

The Federal Government should never treat parents like terrorists for showing up at public hearings to oppose the racist critical race theory or the perverted sex-ed curriculum that is being forced upon our children.

Parents are in charge of the school system, not liberal activists from Washington, D.C., who are using the FBI as their political police force.

GUARD AND RESERVE GI BILL PARITY ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 860, I call up the bill (H.R. 1836) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the time during which members of the Armed Forces serve on active duty for training qualifies for educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 860, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-25 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1836

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD DUTY.

(a) *OTHER QUALIFYING DUTY.—Section 3311(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

(1) by striking "(including)" each place it appears and inserting "(including other qualifying duty and";

(2) by striking "(excluding)" each place it appears and inserting "(including other qualifying duty but excluding"; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by inserting "or other qualifying duty" after "active duty" both places it appears.

(b) OTHER QUALIFYING DUTY DEFINED.—Section 3301 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) The term 'other qualifying duty' means the following:

"(A) During the period beginning on August 1, 2025, and ending on July 31, 2032, active duty for training performed by a member of the Armed Forces—

"(i) on or after August 1, 2025; or

"(ii) before August 1, 2025, if such individual is a member of the Armed Forces on or after such date.

"(B) On or after August 1, 2032, duty performed before, on, or after such date that is—

"(i) active duty for training performed by a member of the Armed Forces; or

"(ii) inactive duty training performed by a member of the Armed Forces.".

(c) TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR OTHER QUALIFYING DUTY.—Section 3321 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "; or" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) in the case of an individual whose entitlement is based on other qualifying duty performed—

"(A) before August 1, 2025, expires on the later of—

"(i) the end of the 15-year period beginning on the date of the discharge or release of such individual from the Armed Forces; or

"(ii) August 1, 2040; or

"(B) on or after August 1, 2025, shall not expire."; and

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO TWO PERIODS.—In the case of an individual subject to periods under paragraphs (1) and (3)(A) of subsection (a), the period under such paragraph (3)(A) shall apply to such individual's entitlement.".

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

(a) EXTENSION.—The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "January 14, 2031" each place it appears and inserting "October 1, 2031".

(b) IRRRL RATE.—The item in subparagraph (E) of the loan fee table under such section is amended to read as follows:

“(E)(i) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan (closed on or after July 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2030)	0.85	0.85	NA
(ii) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan (closed during a period not covered by clause (i))	0.50	0.50	NA”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or their respective designees.

The gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1836, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1836, as amended, Representative LEVIN's Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021.

This bill is a long-needed fix to the unequal treatment of members of the Guard and Reserve for GI Bill purposes. Under current law, guard and reserv-

ists do not accrue education benefits the same as their Active-Duty counterparts, even when they are carrying out the same duties and taking on the same risks.

We live in a new age of national defense where we utilize the total force concept with an operational reserve, not a Strategic Reserve. We rely each day on guard and reservists to protect and defend our country. As we observed the anniversary of the January 6 attack on the Capitol, we were reminded of the brave Guard and Reserve troops who deployed to protect Congress, our staffs, and the foundation of our democracy.

We continue to rely on our Reserve components throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to activate and support public health response efforts across the country. The National Guard has been utilized at unprecedented levels in recent years.

Over the past 2 years, our Reserve components have fought wildfires, responded to protests, assisted with the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and even helped Afghan refugees settle in the United States.

It is time the Guard and Reserve benefits reflect the key work they are doing and the need for equity across the total force. It is time for every day in uniform to count.

The cadence of activations for guard and reservists has increased significantly over the last 5 years, and with that comes the need to meet mission readiness standards.

To prepare for the critical role they fulfill in our national defense, guard and reservists must frequently train, which means more days in uniform, more days away from their civilian life, and more days away from their families.

□ 1245

The GI Bill is both a recruitment and transition benefit to help servicemembers transition into civilian life and close the opportunity gap with their civilian peers.

Now, the Guard and Reserves need this more than ever as they are constantly transitioning between military, civilian employment, and family life, facing continuous disruptions.

This legislation rectifies the disparity and ensures that members of our Reserve forces know that every day they commit to our Nation counts, and that they will have the education benefits waiting for them when they fulfill their commitment.

In both this and the 116th Congress, we reformed and updated the Post-9/11 GI Bill to ensure students who are eligible have easy access to a high-quality education.

We have implemented strong student protections and we are holding bad acting institutions accountable when they fail to meet standards we set for veteran education.

Now, if servicemembers can step up and do their part day in and day out